Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 SAB-02 ACDA-12 SY-05 MCT-01 OC-06 CCO-00 A-01 OPR-02 IO-13 /110 W

-----071748 101734Z /45

P R 101550Z APR 78 FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6465 INFO PANCANAL USCINCSO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PINS, PEPR, PN

SUBJECT: ANTI-TREATY DEMONSTRATION

- 1. FOLLOWING REPORT CONFIRMS TELEPHONIC REPORT TO OPERATIONS CENTER OF 2100 FRIDAY, APRIL 7.
- 2. AT ABOUT 1800 FRIDAY APRIL 7, A SMALL GROUP OF SOME 100-200 PEOPLE, LARGELY UNIVERSITY STUDENTS, HELD A DEMONSTRATION IN SANTA ANA PARK IN DOWNTOWN PANAMA CITY TO PROTEST AGAINST NEUTRALITY TREATY WITH U.S.
- 3. DEMONSTRATION WAS PRECEEDED BY A MOTORCADE OF AROUND 15 CARS DECKED WITH FLAGS AND PROTEST SIGNS AND CARRYING AN EFFIGY OF PRESIDENT CARTER WHICH CIRCULATED IN CITY DISTRIBUTING LEAFLETS FOR AN HOUR OR SO FRIDAY AFTERNOON. UPON ARRIVAL AT SANTA ANA PARK, DEMONSTRATORS BURNED EFFIGY BEFORE STARTING SPEECHES.
- 4. SPEECHES WERE RELATIVELY ROUTINE ANTI-TREATY AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ANTI-US RHETORIC, CONDEMNING US MILITARY BASES AND INTERVENTION IN PANAMA, AND SENATE CHANGES TO NEUTRALITY TREATY AS APPROVED BY PLEBISCITE. SPEAKERS CALLED FOR A NEW PLEBISCITE ON TREATY IN PANAMA, AND FOR REJECTION OF SENATE CHANGES AT THAT TIME.

5. ONE SPEAKER CALLED FOR ANOTHER DEMONSTRATION TO PICKET U.S. EMBASSY ON THURSDAY, APRIL 13, AT 1500.

6. SPONSORSHIP OF RALLY WAS SOMEWHAT OBSCURE, WITH A WHOLE GAGGLE OF LEFTIST GROUPS CLAIMING SOME ASSOCIATION INCLUDING CAMILO TORRES CIRCLE (LEFTIST CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC UNIVERSITY STUDENT GROUP), SOCIALIST WORKERS FRONT (FOS, WHICH AS BEEN DORMANT FOR YEARS) AND OTHERS IDENTIFED BY INITIALS NOT KNOWN TO EMBASSY.

ONLOOKERS IDENTIFIED MEMBERS OF SOCIALIST REVOLUTIONARY LEAGUE (LSR), ANOTHER RADICAL UNIVERSITY GROUP, AT RALLY. MOTORCADE DISTRIBUTED ONE LEAFLET CONTAINING A STATEMENT BY PANAMENISTA PARTY, AND ANOTHER LEAFLET FROM VANGUARDIA POPULAR, A UNIVERSITY GROUP STRONGEST AT LAW FACULTY, WAS DISTRIBUTED AT RALLY.

7. DEMONSTRATORS HELD FORTH FOR SOMETHING OVER AN HOUR AND DISPERSED WITHOUT INCIDENT BY AROUND 2000.

8. COMMENT: NUMBER PARTICIPATING MAY BE OVERSTATED DUE TO FACT THAT SANTA ANA PARK AREA IS ALWAYS CROWDED AT EARLY EVENING IN ANY EVENT. SEVERAL U.S. MEDIA REPRESENTIVES WERE IN TOWN AND COVERED DEMONSTRATION; ASIDE FROM ITS TIMING, HOWEVER, THIS WAS A RATHER MINOR AND HIGHLY UNEXCITING EXAMPLE OF PANAMANIAN STUDENT BEHAVIOR. JORDEN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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